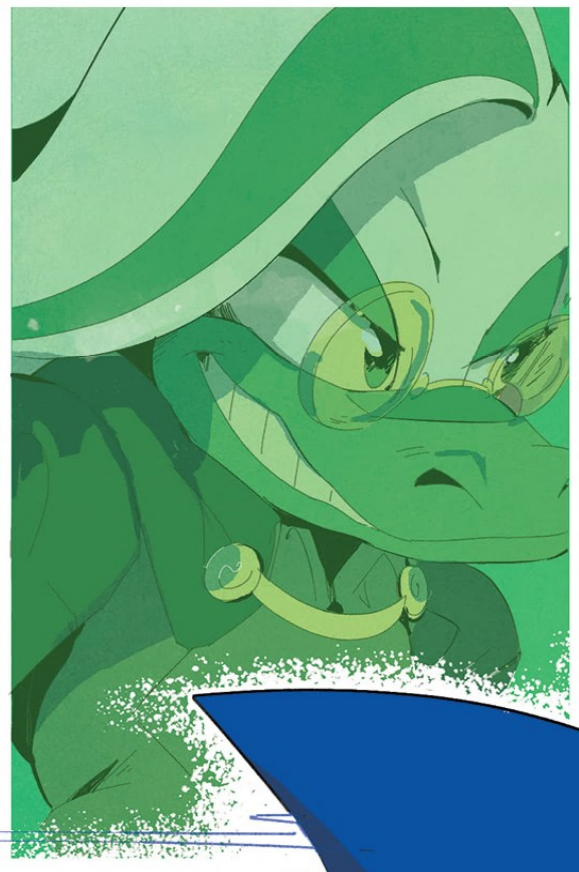
IDW

44

COVER A

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG



FLYNN • YARDLEY • FROESE • HERMS

SEGA®

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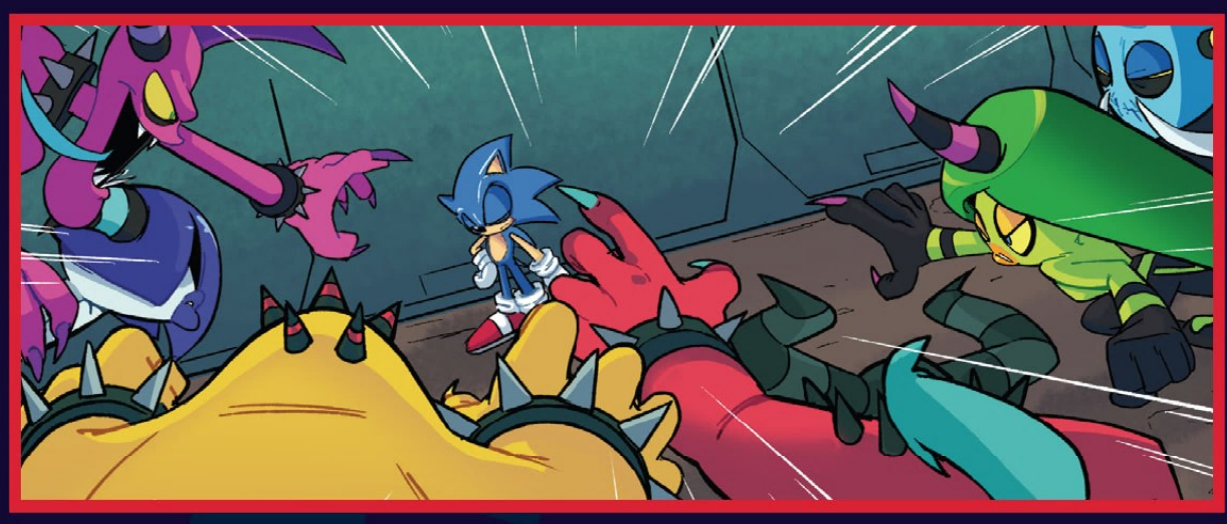
STORY SO FAR



HURRY! TAG 'EM!
PERFECT TIMING!

GRAAAAAH...AAAAAAAAAHHH...

YAY! SO--WE'VE GOT A BIG PROBLEM!
NAH, TAILS SHOWED UP AND SAVED THE DAY. THE DEADLY SIX ARE DOWN. WE'RE GOOD.

DR. STARLINE KIDNAPPED BELLE!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
The Blue Blur.
Fastest Thing Alive.

MILES "TAILS" PROWER
Tech-savvy Sidekick.
High-flying genius.

BELLE THE TINKERER
Clumsy Marionette.
Enthusiastic new-comer.

THE CHAOTIX
Ace Detective Agency.
Charmy, Vector, Espio.

THE DEADLY SIX
Zeti from Lost Hex.
Zavok, Zik, Zazz, Zeena, Zomom, Zor.

DR. STARLINE
Theatrical Bad Guy.
Former Eggman lackey.

EMERALDVILLE RUINS.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO OVER-POWER TAILS' TECH.

ON THAT NOTE...

...YOUR RIDE IS HERE.

RAA-- ARGH!

KZZT

:SIGH:

SO... WHAT IS TO BECOME OF US?

WE'RE SENDING YOU HOME.

...WHAT?

MY ZETI LAUNCHER WILL CARRY YOU ALL BACK TO LOST HEX. ONCE THERE, ITS SYSTEMS WILL SELF-DESTRUCT AND YOUR ZETI ZAPPERS WILL DEACTIVATE.

YOU'LL BE STRANDED ON YOUR HOME WORLD, AND THE REST OF US WILL BE SAFE FROM YOU.

DON'T LET THE DOOR HIT YOU ON THE WAY OUT. OR DO. I *REALLY* DON'T CARE.

LAUNCH SEQUENCE READY

ENGAGE

AFTER ALL WE'VE DONE... YOU'RE SHOWING US MERCY?

EH, WE'VE ALREADY WON. THAT'S ENOUGH.

Y'KNOW, ASIDE FROM IT BEING *REALLY* HUMBLING FOR YOU GUYS.

HA HA HAHA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

I WILL MAKE YOU REGRET SHOWING RESTRAINT.

THIS MOMENT OF COMPASSION WILL BE REPAID TENFOLD IN VIOLENCE AND MISERY.

THIS IS YOUR FAULT. IF I HAD DESTROYED EGGMAN IN WINDMILL VILLAGE, *NONE* OF THIS WOULD BE HAPPENING.

JUST LIKE I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU CONVINCE ME TO LEAVE EGGMAN IN WINDMILL VILLAGE.

OH. HEY, METAL. LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FULLY REPAIRED, *HUH?*

AHHH... THAT LIFE *WAS* RELAXING. BUT I'M DOING SOMETHING *BETTER.*

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO SACRIFICE *MY* PRINCIPLES OUT OF *FEAR*.

YOU WANT TO CAUSE MORE TROUBLE? *FINE*. WASTE YOUR TIME. I'LL KICK YOUR BUTT *EVERY* TIME.

HEH. I CAN RESPECT THAT.

BWOOSH

THE ZETI LAUNCHER IS EN ROUTE TO LOST HEX, JEWEL. ANY WORD FROM THE CHAOTIX?

THEY MISSED THEIR LAST CHECK-IN. I DON'T KNOW IF IT MEANS THEY'RE BUSY OR IF SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED, OR...!

THEY MAY NOT SEEM ALL THAT PROFESSIONAL, BUT THEY GET RESULTS.

DON'T WORRY, JEWEL. IF ANYONE CAN FIND BELLE, IT'S THEM.

THAT SAID, IT WOULDN'T HURT FOR ME TO LOOK, TOO.

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE, SONIC.

THE DEADLY SIX CRISIS MAY BE RESOLVED, BUT WE KNOW DR. EGGMAN IS UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS*...

*STH#36-40.

"...AND THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT *DR. STARLINE* IS PLANNING."

I-I'M BELLE. NICE TO MEET YOU...?

W-WHERE AM I?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

FINALLY! YOU HAVE THE MOST OBTUSE START-UP ROUTINE.

THEN AGAIN, YOUR UNORTHODOX DESIGN IS *PRECISELY* WHY I SOUGHT YOU OUT!

I-I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

I'M NOTHING SPECIAL! I JUST REPAIR STUFF! AND MESS THINGS UP! NOT ALWAYS IN THAT ORDER!

THERE'S MORE TO YOU THAN MEETS THE EYE. WE *BOTH* KNOW THAT.

PLEASE DON'T DISASSEMBLE ME...

PERISH THE THOUGHT! YOU ARE A UNIQUE, INCREDIBLY COMPLEX PIECE OF ART! I WOULDN'T ***DARE*** RISK DAMAGING YOU!

WE MAY HAVE HAD A FALLING OUT, BUT I STILL HOLD DR. EGGMAN'S WORK IN HIGH ESTEEM.

I WASN'T BUILT BY EGGMAN!

THAT'S TRUE... TO AN EXTENT. I SUSPECT YOU DON'T KNOW THE FULL STORY.

TH-THERE'S NO STORY TO IT.

TUT-TUT, LITTLE PUPPET. LIES WILL MAKE YOUR NOSE GROW.

DR. EGGMAN LOST HIS MEMORIES AFTER ONE OF HIS MOST CRITICAL DEFEATS.

HE TOOK ON THE PERSONA OF *MR. TINKER*, A KINDLY INVENTOR AND REPAIR MAN.

EGGMAN LAND

SO I TOOK HIM IN AND WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO CURE HIM OF THAT STATE OF MIND.

WITH... SOME ASSISTANCE FROM METAL SONIC...

...YOU TURNED HIM INTO EGGMAN...

INDEED! THE ONLY DRAWBACK BEING THE LOSS OF "MR. TINKER'S" ALTERNATE DESIGN PERSPECTIVE.

DR. EGGMAN HAS A CERTAIN STYLE TO HIS CREATIONS. SOMETIMES MINIMALIST, SOMETIMES ECLECTIC, BUT ALWAYS WITH A CENTRAL MOTIF.

HE WOULD NEVER THINK OF DEVELOPING A PUPPET LIKE YOU. NOR WILL HE EVER DO SO AGAIN.

WHICH IS WHY I NEED TO STUDY YOUR UNIQUE--

YOU TOOK MY FATHER AWAY FROM ME!

PINGPING PING

ALERT !

YES! SUCH PASSION! SUCH REALISTIC EMOTIONAL SIMULATION!

DON'T YOU EVEN CARE?! ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?!

OH, I DO AND I AM!

LET LOOSE, BELLE! TELL ME EVERYTHING!

YOU INSENSITIVE JERK! YOU RUINED EVERYTHING!

LESS ABOUT ME, MORE ABOUT *YOU*. DR. EGGMAN MADE YOU WHILE IN WINDMILL VILLAGE, DIDN'T HE?

HE WAS MISTER! TINKER!

HE WAS KIND! AND SWEET! AND FUNNY! AND... I LOVED HIM SO MUCH...

...I WAS SO HAPPY FIXING THE TOYS AND RIDES HE MADE FOR THE CHILDREN.

HE BEGAN TO INTRODUCE ME TO THE VILLAGERS. THEY WERE NERVOUS AROUND ME, BUT WILLING TO GIVE ME A CHANCE.

"THEN ONE DAY... HE VANISHED.

"NOT LONG AFTER, EGGMAN ATTACKED.

"THE METAL VIRUS DIDN'T AFFECT ME...

"...AND I WAS *VERY* ALONE."

"EVENTUALLY EVERYONE WAS CURED AND CAME HOME...

"...BUT THEY BLAMED ME. THEY THOUGHT I WAS AN EGGMAN SPY.

"THEY BROKE DOWN AND RECYCLED EVERYTHING MR. TINKER BUILT...

"...AND GOT MAD IF I TRIED TO FIX ANYTHING.

"SO I RAN AWAY. I LOOKED FOR... *HIM*.

"I THOUGHT... MAYBE IF I FOUND HIM, I COULD TALK TO HIM. MAKE HIM COME BACK... AS MR. TINKER.

"INSTEAD, I WAS FOUND BY SONIC AND TAILS."

I THOUGHT... MAYBE... WITH THEIR HELP... I COULD *FIX* THINGS...

STUPENDOUS.

QUANTIFIABLE METRICS ON LOYALTY, FAMILIAL DEVOTION, AND THE WHOLE GAMUT OF EMOTIONS!

A SENSE OF PURPOSE AND BELONGING RENDERED IN BEAUTIFUL, REPLICABLE CODE.

AND ALL OF IT READILY APPLICABLE! THIS WILL SAVE ME MONTHS OF RESEARCH!

I CAN DIRECTLY APPLY IT TO ***THEM*** AND BEGIN FIELD TESTING IMMEDIATELY!

WHY DID I EVEN BOTHER? YOU DON'T CARE. NOBODY CARES...

CLICK

KEEP QUIET. WE'LL ESCAPE WHILE HE'S DISTRACTED.

AND ON TOP OF IT ALL, THERE'S GHOSTS?!

?

WAITAMINUTE... YOU'RE THAT DETECTIVE-NINJA GUY...

...THAT CAN TURN INVISIBLE...

...AW, SAWDUST.

OH, FOR PITY'S SAKE...

...GIVE IT UP, DOC! THE CHAOTIX HAVE YOU SURROUNDED!

GRACIOUS. HOW DID YOU FIND ME SO QUICKLY?

CLAP CLAP

ALL PART OF BEING A GOOD DETECTIVE.

YEAH! AND NOW WE KNOW WHERE YOUR EVIL LAIR IS!

HAHAHA! MY DEAR CHILD, YOU THINK *THIS* MODEST FACILITY IS MY HEADQUARTERS?

WELL... I *DID*... UNTIL YOU LAUGHED LIKE THAT JUST NOW...

DOESN'T MATTER. WE'RE BRINGING YOU IN AND RAIDING YOUR FILES. WE'LL KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO SOON ENOUGH!

ALL THE DATA HAS BEEN UPLOADED TO MY PERSONAL CLOUD SERVER ALREADY. THERE'S NOTHING HERE FOR YOU TO INSPECT.

BUT JUST TO BE SURE...

SMASH

GET HIM!

SHOULD I...?

FIND COVER!

BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, DETECTIVES. AND MISS BELLE? *THANK YOU.*

YOU'VE BEEN *VERY* HELPFUL.

ARGH! HE'S TOO FAST!

ARE YOU OKAY? DID HE HURT YOU?

HE BROKE MY HEART.

LIKE... LITERALLY? 'CAUSE TAILS CAN MAYBE FIX THAT.

NO...

SHH... IT'S GONNA BE OKAY NOW.

I'M HERE. AND YOU'VE GOT FRIENDS WAITING FOR YOU.

MEANWHILE-- LOST HEX.

FWOOOOSH

CLUNK

BEEP

THEY WERE TRUE TO THEIR WORD.

ONE OF A HERO'S MANY WEAKNESSES.

WELL... HERE WE ARE. BACK HOME WITH NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT.

MAN... I DON'T EVEN FEEL LIKE BREAKING ANYTHING...

CONSIDER, MY PACK, THAT WE TOOK ON A CONQUEST FAR GREATER THAN ANY ZETI EVER DARED UNDERTAKE.

THERE IS HONOR AND GLORY TO BE FOUND IN THAT, THOUGH OUR VICTORY WAS STOLEN BY THESE RODENTS BY A HAIR'S BREADTH.

BUT IN DEFEAT, THERE IS KNOWLEDGE.

THESE PALTRY TRICKS CANNOT DEFEAT US AGAIN. LOST HEX WILL NOT CONTAIN US FOREVER.

WE WILL RETURN TO THE WORLD BELOW WITH A *VENGEANCE*. WISER. STRONGER.

AND EVEN MORE *RUTHLESS* THAN BEFORE.

THE END OF THE DEADLY SIX--FOR NOW!
NEXT TIME: TRIAL BY FIRE!

NEXT MONTH

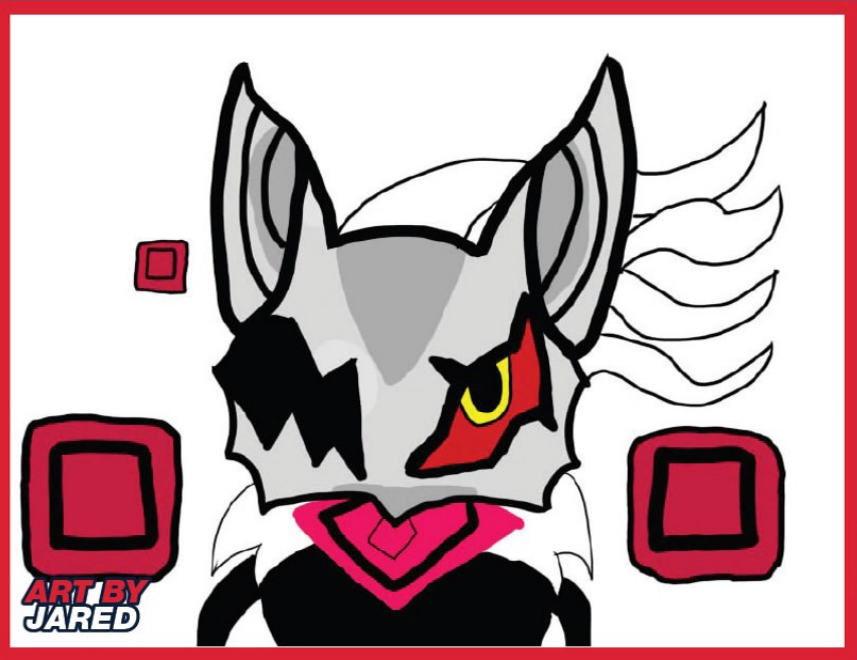
SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Bye bye, Zeti and hello, Sonic Friends! Thank you for joining Ian Flynn, Tracy Yardley, Matt Froese, Matt Herms, and Shawn Lee for the final part of "Zeti Hunt"! But if you're like me, you're wondering just what it was Dr. Starline wanted from Belle... While we ponder that, let's check out your letters and art!

My name is Cassie and I am sixteen years old. Sonic the Hedgehog has been one of my favorite characters for a long time. I used to read some of the older Sonic comics, and while I was looking for some at the library, I found *Sonic the Hedgehog Volume One: Fallout*, containing issues one through four of your current comics. I was hooked! I immediately went searching for the next issues, and bought the ones not available at the library on Google Play. The most recent one I've read is #33 (I'm a little behind), which contains your interview with Evan Stanley, who I was shocked to find out is a girl! She is one of my favorite artists for these comics, and it was a pleasant surprise to find that out. Thanks for making such awesome comics! I have one question though: Will Tangle be in any more issues? She's one of my favorite characters!
Keep on spinnin'!

Hi Cassie! We love to hear that readers are finding Sonic *at their local library! We love our local library (and have been known to check out the Sonic comics on our Library Pass app). And we're really glad you were pleasantly surprised by the creator corner! One of our goals in running those every other month is to let fans get to know the people making the comics a little bit more because chances are, you'll relate as other people who love Sonic! As per Tangle, we got to see her a bit last issue and she'll be back as part of our next arc, "Trial by Fire," starting next issue!*

Hi Ian Flynn and Evan Stanley and everyone working on the Sonic comics! My name is Brian, I'm 20 years old and I'm about to turn 21 this year. I've been a Sonic fan since I was 3 years old and ever since then I've followed Sonic and will for the rest of my life! My mom and dad got me into Sonic by buying me a



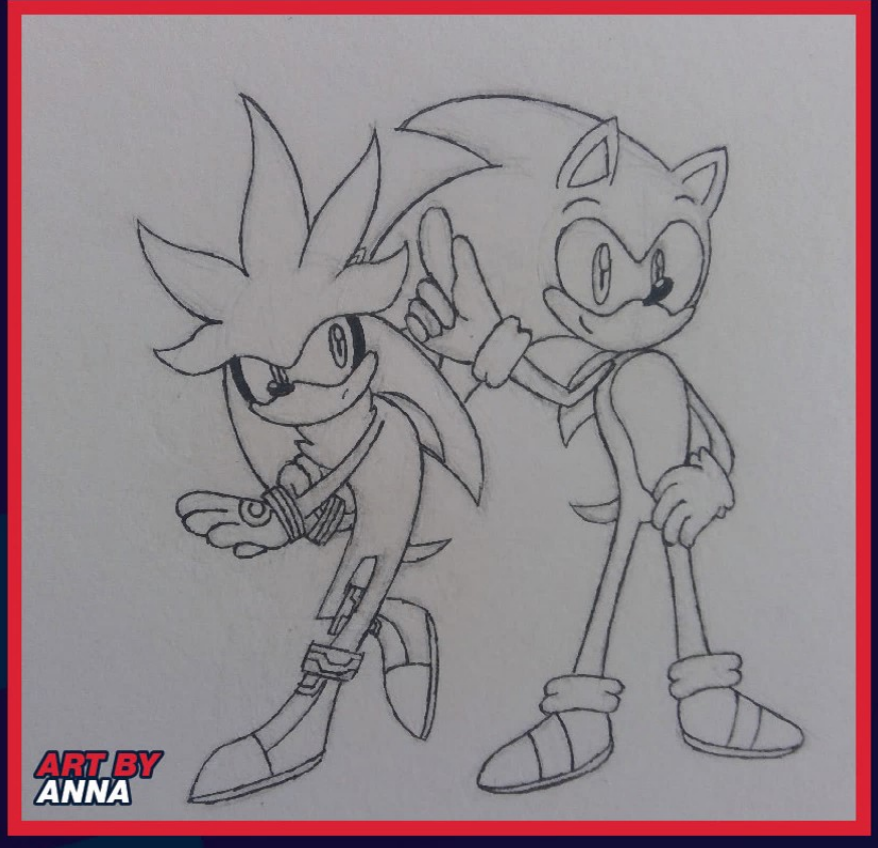
Sonic plush and my first Sonic game is Sonic Heroes. I got into the comics since issue 1 and I love every single issue that's come out since then. Keep up the good work on the comics and can't wait for issue 50!!

Hi Brian! Very cool that you've been a Sonic fan for so long! We've got some big plans in place for Sonic #50, but before we can get there, we're going to be asking you and everyone else to join us on The Road to Sonic #50, a ten-part countdown starting next issue! But, as I'm sure you're thinking, next issue is #45 and there aren't 10 issues between #45 and #50. Well, we're about to kick off a brand-new Sonic mini-series in November! We'll be revealing more details when we can (keep an eye out and it may've already been announced), but rest assured, you're not going to want to miss an issue in this epic story, all coming together in part 10, issue #50 itself, coming in 2022!

The *Sonic the Hedgehog 30th Anniversary Special* is hands down one of the greatest Sonic comics ever put together! Every panel was charming and delightful and felt like the culmination of everything that made Sonic a special series for me. I really feel like these classic stories deserve their own series. I know so many other fans want to see more of the classic characters we never get to see in the main line series. Also we'd get far more Knuckles and I, nay the earth, needs more Knuckles! <3

With chili dogs and Love,
Preston M.

P.S. seeing Tracy Yardley! on pencils was nice and would love to see him on the

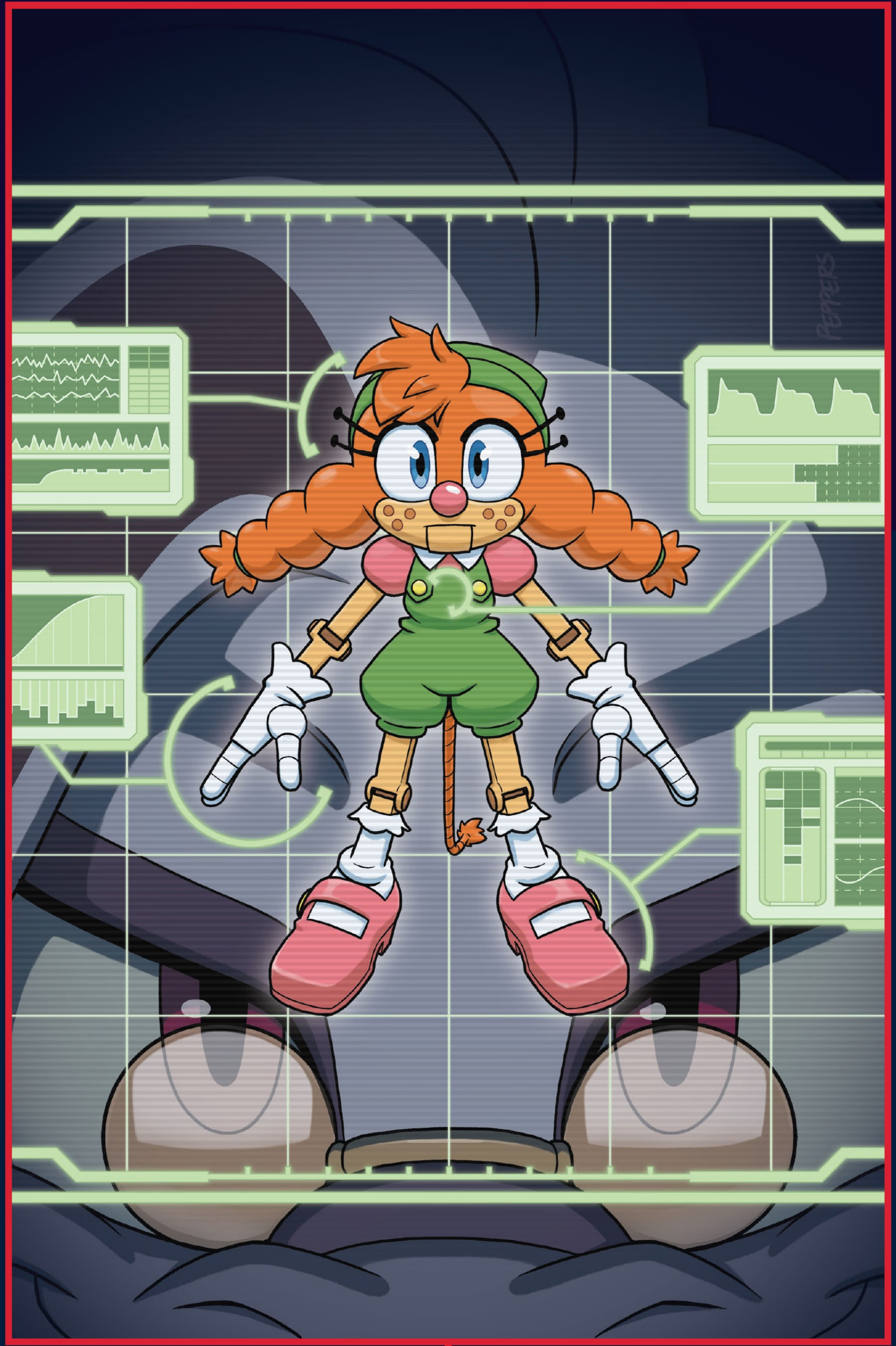


books more! He defined Sonic visually for me growing up.

Hey Preston! Glad you enjoyed the 30th Anniversary *Special! We loved putting it together and felt it was worthy of Sonic's 30th birthday! We love the world of the Classic characters and will definitely revisit them–and already did! Did you have a chance to pick up the 2021 Free Comic Book Day Special with another new Classic Sonic story from Gale Galligan, Thomas Rothlisberger, and Nathalie Fourdraine? Not a lot of Knuckles, unfortunately, but plenty of great Amy time! And, speaking of Tracy, yeah, his pencils on this issue and #42 were spectacular! Thanks so much to him for joining us once again!*

Now thank you for joining us, Squad. Please don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, the girls go camping in "Trial By Fire," part one!

ART GIGI DUTREIX



ART JAMAL PEPPERS

ART NATHALIE FOURDRAINE